

1996, he was a White House Fellow assigned as a Special Assistant to Philip Lader, a member of President Clinton's Cabinet, and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

In 1994, he served as commander of the 95th Fighter Squadron, Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, where he commanded over 300 personnel and supervised the operation of 26 F-15 aircraft. Under his leadership, the squadron was recognized as the 325th Fighter Wing Squadron of the Year. Previously, he served in the Air Force Headquarters, with the Air Staff Training Program, and was an air officer commander, civil engineering instructor, motorglider instructor pilot, and women's rugby coach at the U.S. Air Force Academy.

On the eve of General Edmonds' retirement, I offer my congratulations to him, his wife Ann, his son Gregory, who is a freshman at the Air Force Academy, and daughter Katelyn. General Edmonds will be missed, and I know that I speak for all my colleagues in expressing my heartfelt appreciation to him. He is a credit to both the Air Force and the United States of America. We wish our friend the best of luck in his future endeavors and congratulate him on completion of an outstanding and successful active-duty career.●

TRIBUTE TO CAROL HAGEL

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate the important leadership of Carol Hagel upon her retirement from the Indiana Farm Bureau, Inc. Over the years, she has traveled tirelessly representing Indiana agriculture in her position as the second vice president and head of the Women's Division.

In 1985, the Indiana Farm Bureau and I conceived the idea of sponsoring a youth essay contest focusing on the importance of Indiana agriculture in their daily lives. Throughout the years, essay topics have focused on health and nutrition, global trade, and most recently, alternative energy consumption. The Indiana Farm Bureau Women's Division has generously given of its time to judge over 15,000 essays at the county, district, and State levels.

For the past several years, I have looked forward to visiting with Carol when she traveled to Washington, DC, with the State essay winners and their families.

Carol has been a true friend to Indiana agriculture, and I cherish our years of friendship. I hope that you will join me as we honor and celebrate her many contributions to the State of Indiana.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. JENNIFER RICHESON

● Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, today I wish to acknowledge an extraordinary constituent of mine, Dr. Jennifer Richeson. An associate professor at Northwestern University, Jennifer has

recently been named a MacArthur Fellow.

Each year, the MacArthur Fellows Program typically accepts our Nation's most ingenious and diligent minds. The Program is highly selective; typically only 20 to 30 applicants are accepted. Moreover, although the fellowship grants a \$500,000 stipend, it is not meant to be a reward. Rather, it is an investment in the creative potential of our Nation. To activate this potential, the stipend is free of stipulations; scholars spend their grant on whatever projects they choose.

In 1994, Dr. Richeson received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Brown University. Then, in 2000, Jennifer received a doctorate in social psychology from Harvard University. Now, at Northwestern, she has used innovative research techniques to study the effects of racial stereotyping and discrimination on cognition and behavior. With the stipend she receives from her fellowship, Dr. Richeson will surely make further contributions to our society's understanding of psychological and racial issues.

I congratulate Dr. Richeson on her accomplishments. She is a model of academic excellence and commitment, and I am proud to be her Senator.●

HONORING LIEUTENANT GENERAL JOHN R. VINES

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I honor LTG John R. Vines, the commanding general of the XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg.

General Vines, an outstanding American soldier from Alabama, will soon retire after more than 35 years of selfless service to this great Nation in the U.S. Army. General Vines' dedication to our soldiers, commitment to excellence, and performance of duty has been extraordinary throughout his career. General Vines' lifetime of service culminated in an assignment as the commanding general of the XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg, which he has held since 2003.

During his time in uniform, General Vines served in a succession of command and staff positions worldwide. The embodiment of an Army Ranger, General Vines has served all over the world, commanding paratroopers in combat during three separate conflicts. As a battalion commander in the 82nd Airborne Division, General Vines led a combat parachute assault in Operation Just Cause in Panama in 1989 and then led the same soldiers in Operation Desert Shield as the first ground combat unit in the gulf.

Soon after the United States went to war in 2001, General Vines, as commanding general of the 82nd Airborne Division, led his forces into Afghanistan as head of Coalition Task Force 82 and then assumed control of Combined/Joint Task Force 180 in Bagram. From January 2005 until January 2006, General Vines served as the joint forces commander of Multi-National Corps

Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom, becoming the first general officer to command forces in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

LTG John Vines holds a B.S. degree in chemistry from the University of Alabama and an M.A. degree in National Security and Strategy from the Naval War College. His numerous awards and accolades include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal; Distinguished Service Medal; Defense Superior Service Medal, with Oak Leaf Cluster; Bronze Star Medal, with Oak Leaf Cluster; Legion of Merit, with Oak Leaf Cluster; Combat Infantryman Badge; Master Parachutist Badge, with Combat Star and the Ranger Tab.

During his distinguished Army career, General Vines earned a reputation as one of the Department of Defense's most forward-thinking and insightful leaders. Remembered by those who served under his command as both an extraordinary man and leader, General Vines wrote personal condolence letters to the families of each one of his soldiers killed in combat. General John Vines represents the epitome of what Army leaders, soldiers, and the country expect from our military officers. He is a sterling roll model for young soldiers. Well known as the "Soldiers' General," his commitment to the troops he led was unparalleled, even being quoted as saying that success in combat is not about military hardware or technology. "It boils down to the individual soldiers. It's about having people who have the commitment, the courage, the will, and the warrior values to confront the forces that threaten us. And only so long as we have those men and women who are able and willing to confront this will we be safe."

His service to the Nation has been exceptional, and General Vines is more than deserving of this recognition. His sacrifices are appreciated and important to the freedom we enjoy every day. I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking LTG John Vines for his commendable service to our Nation and the U.S. Army. I thank his wife Pamela and his sons, Joshua and Jacob, for their steadfast support while he fulfilled this essential duty to our country. I personally wish the Vines' family all the best as they celebrate General Vines' richly deserved retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO SOUTHERN OREGON REHABILITATION CENTER AND CLINICS

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, it is my sincere pleasure to congratulate the Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics on being awarded the 15th Annual Secretary Robert W. Carey Performance Excellence Award. On November 16, 2006, the SORCC was honored with the Carey Award, an award given by the Department of Veterans Affairs acknowledging those VA organizations which exhibit performance and organizational excellence.

Nearly 400,000 of our Nation's veterans reside in the State of Oregon.

The service of these men and women makes me proud to be an Oregonian. Unfortunately, oftentimes with great heroism comes great risk. Mental impairments, along with a variety of contributing factors, have led to a large concentration of homeless veterans in Oregon, totaling roughly one-third of Oregon's homeless population.

The SORCC in White City, Oregon directly focuses on the needs of the homeless, mentally ill, and substance abusers. Serving for over 56 years, the SORCC is the VA's only freestanding rehabilitation center, carefully tailored to treat debilitating problems unaddressed by standard VA medical centers and clinics. White City pays special attention to Oregon's substantial Veterans homeless population, with 75 percent of all applicants stating that they are without a home.

While about one-fourth of the Veterans living within the general proximity of the facility receive some type of care from the SORCC, its exclusivity in Veteran specialty care has attracted patients from over 35 States. Potential patients are likely persuaded not solely by the specialized treatment and expertise of the staff, but because of the time invested in each patient's recovery. White City offers a variety of community activities which expedite patient development and growth, while forming valuable relationships with staffers. Perhaps most impressive of all, the SORCC retains consistently high outpatient scores between 80 and 90 percent.

Referred to by many as "The Dom," in reference to its history and present role as a domiciliary, the SORCC is an important facility for Oregon veterans who need treatment outside of the home. Just over two years ago, the VA considered closing the White City facility. I was strongly against the potential closure and worked to ensure that its doors remained opened to our Nation's veterans. After careful deliberation, the Department of Veterans Affairs concluded that its success in treating difficult addiction cases is unheralded, and immediately implemented plans to repair and expand the existing facility.

The SORCC continues to operate and serve Oregon's veterans with high levels of professionalism and success. The population served by White City continues to expand, including more than 120 returning veterans from the global war on terrorism. I am privileged today to offer my congratulations to the SORCC. Their continued commitment to safety, compassion, and growth will serve as a model for VA organizations nationwide.●

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT COOK

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Robert Cook of Central High School in Rapid City, SD. Robert was named the 2006 Teacher of the Year by the National Indian Education Association.

As the English and social studies teacher at Central High School, Robert has played an integral and unique role in furthering the education of South Dakota's students. His initiative, expertise, and kind heart, has created an exceptional learning environment at Central High School. His selfless dedication to educating students for 17 years is truly commendable. I am proud to have such a fine teacher influencing our State's future leaders.

Robert is a graduate of Black Hills State University and he resides in Rapid City. Today I rise with Robert Cook's friends, family, and colleagues in honoring his selfless dedication and service to South Dakota's students.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2005, the Secretary of the Senate, on November 21, 2006, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOLF) has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 101. An act to convey to the town of Frannie, Wyoming, certain land withdrawn by the Commissioner of Reclamation.

S. 4001. An act to designate certain land in New England as wilderness for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation system and certain land as a National Recreation Area, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2383. An act to redesignate the facility of the Bureau of Reclamation located at 19550 Kelso Road in Byron, California, as the "C.W. 'Bill' Jones Pumping Plant".

H.R. 3817. An act to withdraw the Valle Vidal Unit of the Carson National Forest in New Mexico from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4000. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to revise certain repayment contracts with the Bostwick Irrigation District in Nebraska, the Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District No. 2, the Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District, and the Webster Irrigation District No. 4, all a part of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4559. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain National Forest System land

to the towns of Laona and Wabeno, Wisconsin, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5061. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey Paint Bank National Fish Hatchery and Wytheville National Fish Hatchery to the State of Virginia.

H.R. 5103. An act to provide for the conveyance of the former Konnarock Lutheran Girls School in Smyth County, Virginia, which is currently owned by the United States and administered by the Forest Service, to facilitate the restoration and reuse of the property, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5585. An act to improve the netting process for financial contracts, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5690. An act to adjust the boundaries of the Ouachita National Forest in the States of Oklahoma and Arkansas.

H.R. 6121. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize a program relating to the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, and for other purposes.

Under authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2005, the enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS) during the adjournment of the Senate on November 28, 2006.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2005, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 4, 2006, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOLF) has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 3699. An act to provide for the sale, acquisition, conveyance, and exchange of certain real property in the District of Columbia to facilitate the utilization, development, and redevelopment of such property, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4377. An act to extend the time required for construction of a hydroelectric project, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS)

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following measure was discharged from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

S. 4048. A bill to prohibit Federal funding for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 4080. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, with respect to settlement agreements reached with respect to litigation involving certain secondary transmissions of superstations and network stations.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with